

March 25, 2013

The Honorable Julius Genachowski
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20554

**Re: Endorsement of the Human Rights Defense Center's Comment in the
Matter of Rates for Inmate Calling Services, WC Docket No. 12-375**

Dear Commissioner Genachowski:

We, the undersigned organizations, endorse the comments submitted on March 25, 2013 by the Human Rights Defense Center (HRDC), one of the leaders of the Campaign for Prison Phone Justice, regarding Proceeding #12-375, also known as "The Wright Petition," which asks Federal Communications Commission to use its jurisdictional power to make the cost of interstate prison telephone calls affordable for prisoners and their families.

HRDC's exhaustive public records research indicates a widespread problem of price gouging of prisoners and their families through Inmate Calling Systems. Their research shows that, in many cases, the high costs of calls from prisoners to loved ones are driven by "site commissions," whereby phone companies "kick back" a percentage of the profit earned from the calls – out of the pockets of poor and working class people receiving calls from prisoners and detainees.

We support HRDC's recommendations to eliminate commissions, impose rate caps, prohibit extra fees, and provide a minimum number of free calling minutes for prisoners and detainees, among other recommendations. We support the recommendations because we believe that communication is a human right and telecommunications companies and state agencies should not profit off of captive consumers.

Sincerely,



amalia deloney for the Media Action Grassroots Network



Additional Organizations:

1. William C. Velasquez Institute
2. Working Narratives
3. Media Alliance
4. Main Street Project
5. Deep Dish TV
6. Urbana-Champaign Independent Media Center Foundation
7. Open Access Connections
8. IDEPSCA
9. Eye on Sacramento
10. Prison Radio
11. PUEBLO
12. Peace and Freedom Party
13. All of Us or None
14. Legal Services for Prisoners with Children
15. San Francisco Bay View Black Newspaper
16. Access Humboldt
17. Institute for Local Self Reliance
18. League of Rural Voters
19. Alternate ROOTS
20. Mujeres Unidas y Activas
21. Prison Policy Initiative
22. Safe Return Project
23. Martinez Street Women's Center
24. Southwest Workers Union
25. Art IS Change
26. Highlander Research and Education Center
27. Media Literacy Project
28. New Sanctuary Coalition of NYC
29. Chicago Media Action
30. Generation Justice
31. Media Mobilizing Project
32. National Hispanic Media Coalition
33. Appalshop, Inc.